

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROYTON,

1905.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

BEING AN

ACCOUNT OF THE SANITARY CONDITION

WITH

TABULATED STATEMENTS OF THE

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY

OF THE DISTRICT.

RALPH YOUNG, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE
Chairman and Members of the Sanatory Committee
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Eleventh Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District. I desire in the first instance to thank you for printing these Reports as they are thereby made more handy for reference by the Officers of the Local Government Board and of the County Council as well as the members of the District Council, and a more general knowledge is diffused as to the health and sanitary requirements of the District.

It ~~is~~ is satisfactory to be able to report a death rate not above the average. A point of importance in the history of the past year is the great diminution in the prevalence of Scarlet Fever. Neither have we had any serious outbreak of disease of any kind. In the statistical portion of the Report an additional table has been included at the suggestion of the Local Government Board dealing with Infant Mortality.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RALPH YOUNG,

31st January, 1906.

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

REPORT, 1905.

We have had several new mills erected in the Royton New Houses District so that the house accommodation for the operatives has hardly kept pace with their requirements, and a large number come in by train and tramcar from outside. About 40 new houses have been occupied during the last year, and some are not only much improved in architectural appearance, particularly those in Thornham and Dogford Wards, but in general comfort and convenience.

The Oldham and Rochdale Road has been practically New Streets re-constructed for a length of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and in August last 19 new streets previously repaired and finished were declared public highways and have been taken over by the District Council.

Our population is almost entirely of the operative class, Occupation and is employed in the cotton-spinning industry. A smaller number work at the Engineering establishments in Oldham.

To the middle of 1905 the population is estimated at 15,500, and the statistics of the Report are based on this estimate. Its distribution is shewn in Table III.

Water Supply The Water Supply is drawn from the Oldham Service, and is generally wholesome and sufficient. Some complaints were made during the summer as to its condition in a part of Haggate Ward, but this was found to be entirely of local origin, and so the matter was easily remedied.

Drainage During the summer months the Sewers have been thoroughly cleansed and flushed, Izal being used in the process. The difficulties encountered in constructing the Main Sewer at Summit have been overcome, and that part is now complete.

An additional length of Sewer has been laid down in Turf Lane and the adjoining property connected up with it.

The Sewer leading down from the West side of Longsight is still in an objectionable condition and remains unconnected with the Main Sewerage System. There is also room for improvement in the drainage from the houses in Rochdale Road near the Scattered Homes, and from one side of Higginshaw Lane.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births The births registered in the District of Royton during 1905 were 378 in number, comprising 194 males and 184 females. Of these 12 were illegitimate, bearing out what has been pretty

generally assumed, viz., that these latter do not in most instances constitute more than 4% of the whole. The distinction, however, is useful in statistical enquiry as providing more accurate data for computing the general total in large populations.

The birth-rate for the District during the past year has Rate per 1,000 not increased, being 24·3. It would be an improvement if we could have the locality of each birth stated by the local Registrar in his weekly returns, as this is required to be given in the Tables provided by the Local Government Board. The rate per 1,000 is in corroboration of the fact of the declension of the birth-rate throughout the country generally.

The number of deaths at all ages registered in the District Deaths during 1905 was 248. In addition to these, through the kindly aid of other Officers of Health, we have been provided with the names of 32 others belonging to Royton who have died outside its boundaries, making a total of 280 deaths, viz.: 144 males and 136 females. These are now always included in order to ensure greater accuracy in the calculations.

We have thus for last year the annual rate of 18·06 Rate per 1,000 per 1,000 of population, which remains about the average of the previous ten years. The deaths from unusual causes such as suicide and accident are few in number and about the average.

It may be noted that, it should not be inferred because we have a death-rate of 18·06 that Royton is necessarily more unhealthy than other districts having a lower rate.

It is obvious that there are other reasons than that of a sanitary character which influences the mortality.

Compared
with previous
Years

The following Table taken from that of the Local Government Board shews in concise form the birth and mortality rates with other particulars for the year 1905 and for previous years.

TABLE I.

Year.	Population to middle of year.	Births		Total Deaths Registered in District.				Deaths in Public Institutions beyond District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages.	
				Under one year of age.		At all Ages.				
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rates per 1000 births	No.	Rate.		No.	Rate.
1895	14000	408	29·1	84	205·8	313	22·3	...	...	...
1896	14150	391	27·6	89	237·6	320	22·6	...	...	...
1897	14300	398	27·8	55	138·1	234	16·3	...	...	...
1898	14450	374	25·8	50	133·6	244	16·8	...	...	...
1899	14600	387	26·5	68	175·7	280	19·1	...	...	...
1900	14750	383	25·9	73	190·6	276	18·7	20	296	20·6
1901	14900	386	25·9	58	150·2	243	16·3	25	268	17·9
1902	15050	416	27·6	64	153·8	240	15·9	34	274	18·2
1903	15200	362	23·8	48	132·5	249	16·3	26	275	18
1904	15350	406	26·4	66	162·5	245	15·9	35	280	18·2
Averages for years 1895-1904	14675	391·1	26·6	65·8	168·4	264	18·2	*28	*278	*18·5
1905	15500	378	24·3	49	129·6	248	16	32	280	18·06

* Averages of five years.

The usual corrections have been taken into account in this ^{Institutions in} District Table and we are thus enabled to form a fair estimate of the health of the District. As we have observed in previous Reports, deaths are not now likely to be reported from the Receiving Home at Fir Bank, as all sick cases are ^{treated} at the Union Infirmary or the Infectious Hospitals as may be required.

The fluctuations in the death-rate at different periods of ^{Variations in} the year 1905 are not considerable. The greatest number of ^{Death-rate} deaths—91—occurred in the last quarter of the year, and the fewest—54—in the months of July, August and September.

There has, therefore, been no exceptional mortality of any kind during the year, and it may also be said at the same time no marked deterioration in the Sanitary conditions.

Some three years ago, chiefly through the instrumentality ^{Infantile} of the Director-General of the Army Medical Service, an inter- ^{Mortality} departmental committee on Physical deterioration was established, and the Report of this committee has, amongst other effects, given a stimulus to the enquiry into the causes of Infantile Mortality. With the view of providing further data a new Table is provided this year, which exhibits the causes of death at different age periods during the first year of infancy.

TABLE II.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-2 months	2-3 months	3-4 months	4-5 months	5-6 months	6-7 months	7-8 months	8-9 months	9-10 months	10-11 months	11-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Enteritis .....	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth ...	9	...	1	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Defects.	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marasmus, etc. ....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Meningitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Convulsions .....	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bronchitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	5
Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	6
Other Causes.....	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	3
	14	1	3	1	19	3	3	5	3	5	4	2	1	1	1	2	30

In an appendix to the aforementioned report Dr. Tatham provides us with valuable information as to the causes of Infantile Mortality under one year which does not seem to be diminishing throughout the country generally.

In Royton during the year under review more than 20 per cent. of the deaths under one year of age are due to Premature Birth, and if a similar condition of things is found to prevail in other Districts it will be obvious that "there is less viability among the children coming into the world now," and further that this is probably due to certain social habits on the part of the parents.

Are public authorities sufficiently alive to this? It has been our experience as Union Medical Officer that there is a tendency now-a-days to lessen parental responsibility by providing young children with all sorts of advantages to which they have never been accustomed, but which it is clearly the duty of parents to confer on their own offspring, and the absence of which should act as a penalty to neglectful parents rather than a detriment to the children. Moreover, it is unlikely that Boards of Guardians or Educational Authorities will "throw good money after bad" so to speak, or will go to the expense of pursuing indigent parents for the cost of these privileges, and the negligent are thus allowed to escape scot-free.

Over 14 per cent. of the deaths under one year are due to Convulsions. Epileptic Convulsions, which are frequently the product of digestive troubles, imperfect development, and of neurotic disease of congenital origin.

Respiratory
Diseases

From diseases of the Respiratory Organs upwards of 22 per cent. of the children under one year old died in 1905.

As was hinted in a previous Report, educational effort will improve matters in the prevention of these and other causes of death in young children, and there is no doubt that as the County Council is now an Educational as well as a Sanatory Authority, the increasing disposition to assimilate the duties of the School Teacher and the Health Officer is a step in the right direction.

Diarrhoea

The general mortality from diseases of the digestive tract is comparatively insignificant in this District, and when it is found that by far the greater number of deaths from these causes occurs under five years of age, it only emphasizes the statement made previously as to the social shortcomings of parents.

Mortality
Distribution

The Vital Statistics of the separate Wards of the Royton District, both in the last and previous years is shewn in the annexed Table.

TABLE III.

Year.	Whole District.				Thornham Ward.			Dogford Ward.			Haggate Ward.			Dryclough Ward.			Heyside Ward.		
	Population to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895	14000	408	313	84	807	20	9	3240	76	19	4133	70	14	2459	49	17	3361	70	25
1896	14150	391	320	89	829	27	5	3270	71	14	4156	82	24	2528	59	18	3367	81	28
1897	14300	398	234	55	850	11	2	3300	51	11	4179	80	20	2597	34	7	3374	58	15
1898	14450	374	244	50	873	14	2	3330	51	14	4202	82	14	2666	46	10	3379	51	10
1899	14600	387	280	68	895	20	1	3360	55	13	4224	110	30	2736	39	11	3385	56	13
1900	14750	383	296	73	918	18	5	3390	64	16	4246	110	27	2865	42	10	3391	62	15
1901	14900	386	268	58	941	22	5	3419	56	12	4268	88	17	2878	41	8	3394	61	16
1902	15050	416	274	64	950	12	2	3454	67	18	4311	97	19	2907	39	9	3428	59	16
1903	15200	362	275	48	972	14	3	3484	52	11	4336	82	10	2967	55	8	3441	72	16
1904	15350	406	280	66	981	11	2	3499	56	16	4373	100	24	3025	46	8	3472	67	16
Averages of years 1895-1904.	14675	391.1	278.4	65.5	901.6	16.9	3.6	3574.6	39.9	14.4	4242.8	90.1	19.9	2756.8	45	10.6	3392.2	63.7	17
1905	15500	378	280	49	1002	23	4	3528	67	11	4400	104	20	3084	32	5	3486	54	9

Improvements

From the preceding the important fact is seen that the Mortality-rate under one year is considerably under the average of the preceding decennial period. We have now a District Nurse who is able to impart useful information to parents, and although the Infant Mortality rate of an Urban District like Royton will always be considerable, it is evident we may look for more or less permanent improvement in this respect.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to the District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in or belonging to Wards) at all ages).				
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Thornham	Dogford	Haggate	Dryclough	Heyside
Measles	6	1	5	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	1
Scarlet Fever	6	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Croup	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	..	...	...	...	...	2
Epidemic Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	4	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Enteritis	9	5	...	...	2	1	1	1	2	4	1	1
Other Septic Diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	...	...	1	3	6	...	...	6	3	1	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	...	1	1	...	2	...	1	1	2	...	...
Cancer	6	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	1	1	3	1
Bronchitis... ..	31	5	1	...	..	14	11	1	9	10	2	9
Pneumonia	39	6	7	1	1	12	12	3	14	12	1	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	6	1	2	...	...	3	...	1	...	3	...	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	6	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	5	1	...	...
Premature Birth... ..	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	3	...	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1
Heart Diseases	16	1	...	2	...	10	3	3	2	6	3	2
Accidents	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...
Diseases of Urinary Organs	14	...	...	1	...	9	4	1	2	9	2	...
Diseases of Nervous System	36	11	3	1	...	13	8	2	7	17	5	5
Diseases of Digestive Organs	9	3	1	...	1	3	1	...	...	6	...	3
All other causes	52	5	3	1	5	11	27	5	11	17	9	10
All causes... ..	280	49	37	10	12	100	72	23	67	104	32	54

Principal
causes
of Death

The preceding table shows concisely the causes of death at different age periods, and occurring in the different Wards during 1905.

From this also it will be seen that diseases of the Respiratory Organs (excluding Phthisis), diseases of the Nervous System, and the so-called Zymotic Diseases have been the principal causes of death in the order named. Bronchitis and the like furnished 27 per cent., the Zymotics 7 per cent., and Tubercular Diseases 5 per cent. of the total number of deaths. It is now recognised that several kinds of micro-organisms are found associated with pneumonia and due to infection.

Inquests

From the Police authorities we learn that during the year ending December, 1905, there have been 14 Inquests held in Royton upon the bodies of 11 males and 3 females. Of these three were returned as due to natural causes, two to accidental death, two to suicide, and in seven an open verdict was given. There were also eight Preliminary Enquiries made by the Coroner, and Inquests dispensed with concerning seven males and one female.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notification of

The object of notification is, of course, that preventive measures may be taken, and it is of most value in those Infectious Diseases causing the greatest mortality. The notification, voluntary or otherwise, of Measles and Pulmonary Tuberculosis would be of great value.

The general prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the Prevalence of past year, its distribution throughout the District, together with the number of cases removed to Hospital is gathered from the following Table.

TABLE V.

	Cases notified in whole District.						Cases in each Ward.					Removed to Hospital.				
	At Ages—Years						Thornham Ward.	Dogford Ward.	Haggate Ward.	Dryclough Ward.	Heyside Ward.	Thornham Ward.	Dogford Ward.	Haggate Ward.	Dryclough Ward.	Heyside Ward.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.										
Smallpox ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria ...	7	...	2	2	...	3	...	2	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous Group	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	18	...	...	2	3	13	1	5	...	5	7	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	62	...	25	33	...	4	5	9	25	12	11	...	1	2	...	1
Totals	96	...	28	40	3	25	7	16	26	23	24	1	1	2	1	3

With regard to the Removals it has been our custom to remove to Hospital all Smallpox patients and others such as paupers or those whose surroundings are such as to facilitate the spread of infection. These have been treated at the West Hulme Fever Hospital of the Oldham Corporation, and the Joint District Smallpox Hospital at Cinder Hill. It may be noted that no return cases have been observed, that is cases infected by those discharged from Hospital.

Average
Number of
Cases

We have not had so few cases of Infectious Disease reported at any time since the year 1898 as we have had during the past year. Only 96 cases were reported, and of these 14 were fatal.

During the decennial period previous the average number of cases of Infectious Disease coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer was 121·4.

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet Fever has not prevailed so extensively as it generally does in Royton, 62 cases only having been reported during 1905. Of these six died, so that while the general prevalence has been very much less, the average mortality has only been fractionally higher than that of the previous ten years.

On further examination the *foci* of infection were found to be limited as follows :—

In 1 household there were 3 cases ...	...	3
„ 7 households there were 2 cases each ...	...	14
„ 45 „ „ was 1 case „ ...	...	45
Total cases ...		<hr/> 62

It might be argued that Hospital treatment might lessen the mortality, but the fact is that the whole question of the advisability of the removal of Scarlet Fever cases to Hospital has been much under discussion during the last few years, and there is no doubt that for a District such as this, the policy that we adopt is the best, *i.e.*, only to remove those for instance who live in places from which milk is supplied, or other business premises, or places where the Sanitary conditions are objectionable.

The greatest number of cases were reported during the Period first quarter of the year, more being notified then than during the whole of the six months, April to September inclusive.

The influence of Schools in the spread of the disease could only be ascertained by fixing the date of the commencement of each case, though it may be noticed that the fewest number of cases, roughly speaking, occurred during the long holiday period.

From this class of disease the following deaths have occurred :—Scarlet Fever 6, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup 3, Fever (Enteric, &c.) 2, Measles 6, Whooping Cough 1, Diarrhœa 4, altogether 22, or a mortality of 1·4, which is under the average of the previous ten years considerably.

Zymotic
Diseases

Erysipelas A considerable number of cases of Erysipelas are reported every year, but as they are mostly cases of Facial Erysipelas, and little can be done by the Health Officer to prevent them unless it be in the way of disinfection, the notification of these cases is of doubtful benefit and the cost of it very questionable.

Diphtheria The seven cases of Diphtheria were reported at intervals between the early part of February and the end of July. Of these three proved fatal, although none could be distinctly traceable to contact with or infection from each other. As we do not know a great deal about the Etiology of Diphtheria it is not an easy matter to prevent its occasional occurrence.

Enteric Fever Three cases of Enteric Fever were reported in the months of January, April and November respectively, all from the Heyside District. We do not usually have any Enteric in Royton, so that these might be called sporadic or accidental cases. One was traced to food of an injurious character, but none were due to any specially prevalent local condition.

Means Employed Sanitary cans are provided for all these cases to receive the Excreta, &c, which are subsequently removed and destroyed.

Smallpox It is remarkable how free the District has been from Smallpox during the year considering that it is more or less constantly prevalent in the adjoining neighbourhood.

Only two cases were reported during the year, and these at a long interval, so that the infection in both cases was probably imported from outside. Both were removed to Hospital and terminated in recovery.

We have so few cases of Puerperal Fever as scarcely to be worthy of notice ; but the Midwives' Registration Act, passed with a view to their prevention is now in force, and is administered by the County Authority, who have been supplied with a list of local midwives. These are supervised by the Inspectors of the County Council appointed for the purpose.

The means to be employed in preventing the spread of any or all of the above varieties of disease is not always obvious or easy. For instance some codifying of the multitudinous Health Acts would appear to be advisable so as to provide the Sanatory Officers with sufficient power to act promptly ; there is no compulsion to make bye-laws regulating the paving of yards or the provision of water-closet accommodation to old as well as new houses, nor have the Sanatory Authority control over Vaccination or re-vaccination. Nevertheless, what we do is that the Inspector visits almost every case reported, printed instructions are left as regards prevention of infection, and children are kept from school or crowded places when necessary, or the school may be closed.

The District Council School Officers assist us from time to time with useful information. Infected premises are disinfected with Formalin gas and spray, the apparatus used being that made by W. Sharratt. Disinfectants are supplied gratuitously.

As has been mentioned previously we still avail ourselves of the beds provided (some 90 upwards) at West Hulme Hospital, and also the Joint District Smallpox Hospital at Cinder Hill. The charge made for maintenance and attendance at the West Hulme Hospital by the Oldham Corporation is 6/- per day.

SANATORY INSPECTION AND DEPARTMENTAL WORK.

Nuisances
Abatement

The Sanatory Inspector in the course of his regular Inspection of the District during the year 1905 found the following nuisances, which were reported to the Sanatory and Surveyor's Committee.

Blocked and Choked Drainage	60
Defective Drain Connections	43
Defective and dilapidated Closets and Cesspools	20
Defective Sanitary Pans... ..	30
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	4
Defective Spouting and Gutters	20
Defective and Dirty Urinals and Passages ...	6
Smoke Nuisances	6
Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses requiring lime-washing	10

To secure the abatement and remedying of these Nuisances Action taken they were personally attended to by the Inspector himself. 74 letters, 18 formal notices, and 20 legal notices were served on the owners of the properties. 37 house-drains were re-laid and trapped, the cesspools abolished and 34 additional closets built, 15 ashpits were abolished and 50 ashpans substituted.

The Inspector made enquiries at each of the 96 cases of Infectious Disease notified, and 44 notices were issued prohibiting or regulating attendances at the day-schools. 174 Rooms in 74 houses were disinfected with Sulphur or Formaldehyde. In the case of Smallpox the bedding and other infected materials were removed to the Disinfector.

The Sewage of the District is treated at the Sewage Works, where the system of precipitation and filtration is carried out with very good results. The liquid sewage is pumped up on to the land laid out for the purpose, through which it is passed before being turned into the stream. The condition of the effluent taken at different periods during the year 1905, and the mode of treatment in use at the particular time is seen from the following statement by the Analyst. The position on the County list is also indicated.

January.—Fair, clear and colourless, trace of brown sediment ; no smell, Tank and Storm Filter, 55

July.—Good, almost clear, trace of sediment ; no smell. Tank, Filters and Land, 10.

September.—Good, clear and colourless, no sediment ; no smell, Tank, Filters and Land, 4.

October.—Fair, slight turbidity, earthy sediment ; no smell, Tank, Filters and Land, 18.

House Refuse The house refuse is dealt with at the Destructor, the work of collecting being efficiently carried out by the Council's own cartmen.

Night-soil The excrement is disposed off among the farmers in the District, the Sanitary Cans being emptied weekly. There had been some difficulty during last year regarding proper tips for the night-soil, so that in October a special Committee Meeting was held, and after a Report on the matter had been presented by the Inspector, more suitable arrangements were made.

Slaughter Houses The slaughter-houses are 11 in number, and have been visited at irregular intervals on 72 occasions by the Inspector. Three of the owners were requested to lime-wash their premises and the requests were complied with.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

The Annual Register shews that we have now in the Classification
and
Inspection
District 115 Factories and Workshops. These include 66
Factories and Workshops and 49 Bakeries, the nature of the
industries being about the same as formerly, viz., cotton-spinning
and weaving, winding, bleaching and dyeing, fustian cutting and
the joiners' and builders' trades. To report on these 151 visits
were made during the year under review.

The *cleanliness* of the Workshops has been mostly Sanitation
satisfactory, although it was necessary to serve seven notices
on account of defects found. These were subsequently remedied.
The *air space* has been sufficient and the *ventilation* satisfactory.

These are usually retail Confectioners' Shops with Bakery Bakehouses
in the rear, and there are at present in the District 52. The
general sanitary condition has been good except in seven in-
stances. These were relating to lime-washing, which was carried
out on request in each case.

There is only one *underground Bakehouse* in the District, Underground
Bakehouse
and this is in excellent order and certified.

* Three being Workshops

Conveniences

For the examination of the Mills and Workshops 92 visits were necessary. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, was adopted by the Council on 1st October, 1891. The average of one convenience for every 25 persons we generally consider *sufficient*, providing those for the two sexes are kept separate. The prevalent condition was satisfactory, but the following defects were found:—Two closets without doors, two wet floors, two defective passages; and the serving of seven notices were necessary before these were remedied.

Home Work

We have now no outworkers on the list.

FOOD AND DRUGS' ACT.

One person was proceeded against for an offence under the Act. The case was dismissed through the defendant being able to produce a warranty from the Wholesale Dealer.

Milk Analysis

A Report on Milk Analysis and on the Circular of the Board of Agriculture to Local Authorities (28th Dec. 1901), and on the Board's letter (27th March, 1905) was handed to the Sanatory Committee.